

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

There is provided means for setting the RST insertion position comprising a restart line interval setting register 13 automatically setting the insertion position of the RST to the head of the scanning line with the least correlation between two image data for each of the interval L of the arbitrarily set scanning line and a restart interval calculation portion 5. With this structure, a reduction in the compression rate on the basis of the insertion of the RST can be avoided and a high compression rate can be attained.

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